



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3rd – 6:00 p.m.

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/> 406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

Committee Members Present:

Brian Geouge, Chair, Stafford County

Adam Lynch, Vice Chair, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)

Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Committee Members Present (remotely, with virtual participation request):

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Chris Clarke, King George County

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ben Matters, PRTC

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

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Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Chris Collins, Acting Superintendent, National Park Service (NPS)

Others Present:

Matthew Lehane, Stafford County

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager

Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

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1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

Chair Geouge called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Eaves called the roll.

3. **Approval of November 3rd, 2022, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the November 3rd, 2022, BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Jim Lynch; Second: Mr. Adam Lynch.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of September 1st, 2022 BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the September 1st BPAC meeting minutes with corrections.

Motion: Mr. Joe Bonds; Second: Mr. Jacob Pastwik.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **FAMPO Administrator Report-Mr. Ian Ollis**

Mr. Ollis gave an overall end-of-year review on travel patterns in the region, updates on current studies, and an overview of the recent FAMPO Freight Summit.

First, he discussed travel patterns in the Fredericksburg region and how Covid-19 has affected freight and commuter traffic volumes. Freight has risen roughly 11%, and while commuter traffic has not yet recovered to pre-covid levels, it is expected to, which will create congestion issues. VRE and FXBGo! ridership continues to increase. Virginia Amtrak had its highest ridership on record this past July.

FAMPO studies continue to progress. Mr. Ollis said that the East-West Study Phase I Report has been accepted and can be accessed on the FAMPO website. The Phase II Transit Report is being revised for adoption, and the Phase II Roadways Report will be available for public comment in November. For the VCR Trail Crossing Study, Michael Baker is beginning work on the preferred alternatives adopted by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Ollis also reviewed the FAMPO Freight Summit, held on September 29th. He described the challenges learned from speaking with local freight companies and urged members to share the truck drivers' survey to help FAMPO get more responses.

Mr. Ollis' closing remarks included noting that FAMPO has assembled a working group to research a potential new river crossing; FAMPO is working with VDOT to try and ensure that the Falmouth Bridge Rehabilitation includes bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Ollis also reminded locality planners that the call for CMAQ/STBG allocation Call for Projects closes on November 18th. Finally, he announced that FAMPO hired a new GIS Technician and planner, Connor Anderson.

Mr. Frank asked Mr. Ollis to let the Fredericksburg Pathways Committee know if



they could support the effort to add bike/ped infrastructure to the Falmouth Bridge.

Mr. Bonds asked if there was something the group could do formally to support the effort.

Mr. Ollis said that they could send emails to VDOT, and that as Linda LaSut was present, a VDOT representative was hearing the group's wishes. He added that it was technically very difficult given the nature of the current bridge's superstructure.

6. Public Comment

Mx. Touzel read two letters from the public. The first was from Chris Sowers regarding crosswalks perceived as unsafe on Lafayette Blvd. near Blue/Gray Pkwy. The second was a comment from Adam Lynch as a representative of the Friends of the Rappahannock in support of the East-West Mobility Study Transit Report.

There was some discussion on the requirements for a Pedestrian Activated Rapid Flashing Beacon.

7. Discussion/Action Items

- a. VCR Crossing Study Update- Ms. Kari Eaves gave an update on the status of the ongoing VCR Trail Crossing Study which seeks to provide a grade-separated crossing of the trail at US 1 and Rt 3 and a crossing at I-95. The TAC and the Policy Committee made recommendations to Michael Baker for preferred alternatives and engineering has begun. Ms. Eaves described the three planned designs: a bored tunnel under I-95 and two bridges for the other crossings. Mr. Bonds asked where the trail would go on the other side of I-95. Mr. Pastwik described the combination of projects, funding applications, plans and proffers that would make up the trail connection running west of I-95 to connect to the Spotsylvania VCR Trail.

Discussion ensued regarding maintenance and safety issues, and other concerns. Members pointed out that even with potential problems, this was the best option.

Ms. Eaves went on to discuss the US 1 crossing and reported that VDOT performed a turning movement count for that location. The count determined that the signal would be unnecessary for a grade-separated trail crossing and thus could be removed, simplifying the bridge and intersection design. Lastly, Ms. Eaves described the potential design for a ramp and bridge at the crossing of Rt 3, stating that the exact location had not yet been determined and would depend on right-of-way negotiations and working with the gradient of the slope.

Mr. Lynch pointed out that this area is part of the Area 10 Small Area plan which is currently being considered by the City Planning Commission.

Ms. Eaves wrapped up by letting the committee know that Michael Baker will present to BPAC in January with more detailed designs for each of the three options.



b. East-West Mobility Study Phase I and II Transit and Bike/Ped Update- Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis presented on transit, bike and pedestrian components from each of the two phases of the East/West Mobility Study. He first detailed the route and characteristics for a proposed high-capacity transit bus system. Running along Cowan Blvd, it would connect downtown to Spotsylvania Town Centre.

Speaking to Bicycle and Pedestrian planning in the new report, he discussed plans for a shared-use path from Fall Hill Avenue to Spotsylvania Town Centre through Central Park along Carl D. Silver Pkwy.

Mr. Pastwik pointed out that the widths depicted in the report are too wide for the available right of way, and 10 feet would be more appropriate.

Mr. Ollis also showed options for a bike/ped connection from the new Chatham Bridge up into Stafford via Chatham Heights Road. The proposal calls for an improved crossing at the intersection and a road diet and access management study to create a shared-use path along Chatham Heights Rd.

Mr. Ollis then discussed bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit; first a shared-use path to Brooke Station. The proposed route begins at Courthouse Road in Stafford and makes use of utility easements to travel south to finally join Mt. Hope Church Road, turning left at Brooke Road to the station.

Chair Geouge pointed out that there were several proffers along the way to join the easements together, and that the ground was fairly level, but there were still some gaps.

Moving on to the Spotsylvania VRE Station, Mr. Ollis showed a route traveling south down Benchmark Road from the City to the station, and east from Germanna Community College to the station. One of the Benchmark Road options routes under a narrow railway bridge and there is some concern about future rail expansion. Mr. Pastwik emphasized that an eastern route needed to be shown continuing down Benchmark Road in case the trail won't fit under the bridge.

Mr. Ollis then reviewed the section of path leading from Germanna Community College to the station along Rt. 17.

Mr. Pastwik pointed out that that section will also connect to the path along Hospital Blvd, crossing the US 1 Corridor and out to Spotsylvania Parkway to Smith Station Road, where a shared-use path is on its way all the way out to the Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Mr. Ollis wrapped up by stating that these are just the bike/ped and transit connection elements from each report. He urged members to go and read the full reports and stressed that comments on the bike/ped transit connection portions must be received the next day in advance of the TAC meeting.

Comments on the shared-use paths through Central Park and Chatham Heights can be sent over the next several weeks.

8. Correspondence



Ms. Eaves asked Mr. Jim Lynch if he'd like to talk about the correspondence, which was a press release about a lawsuit filed against the Maryland Transportation Authority to stop them from demolishing the Governor Harry Nice Bridge and preserve it as a bike/ped facility. Mr. Jim Lynch explained that a judge had thrown out the lawsuit, which had been filed by the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association—a group separate from his organization.

9. Staff Reports

- Ms. Eaves reminded the committee that this was Mr. Geouge's last meeting as Chair, and that the group would need to elect a new Vice Chair at the next meeting as current Vice Chair, Mr. Adam Lynch, will be the new Chair.

10. Member reports

- Mr. Jim Lynch reported the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation conducted a suitability study to assess whether the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail should be incorporated into Caledon State Park. The study found it suitable but the price to do so would be \$23 million. Mr. Jim Lynch questioned the amount and said that his group had asked for more information as to why it would require this much funding. He is concerned that the trail will be changed too much and will resemble the High Bridge Trail.
- Mr. Bonds reported that this year's Cannonball Century Ride, held by the Fredericksburg Cyclist Club on September 24, was the largest turnout ever -- 450 riders raised funds for the YMCA and the American Cancer Society. Mr. Bonds then asked if the committee could pass a resolution to support bike/ped infrastructure on the Falmouth Bridge.
- Mr. Pennington explained the Robert's Rules of Order for adding items to the agenda. Ms. Eaves reminded the group that there is no quorum rule. The group determined that two-thirds of the meeting's members were still present and could vote on amending the agenda.
- Mr. Jim Lynch made a motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution to endorse bike and pedestrian facilities being added to the Falmouth Bridge Reconstruction. Mr. Jim Lynch seconded the motion. See agenda items 11 and 12 below for the endorsement.
- Ms. Anderson reported that some GWRC staff joined the last 10-miles of the Tour de VRE 70-mile ride recently. She and Mx. Touzel, along with other staff, participated.
- Mr. Geouge reported that Matthew Lehane would be replacing him on BPAC after this meeting.

11. Agenda Amendment (Action Item)

- Motion: Mr. Jim Lynch; Second: Mr. Bonds
Motion passed with unanimous consent.



12. **Endorsement of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities on the Falmouth Bridge Rehabilitation (ACTION ITEM)**

- Motion: Mr. Bonds, Second: Mr. Jim Lynch
- Motion passed with Ms. LaSut abstaining.

13. **Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting **January 5th, 2023 at 6:00 pm****

Chair Geouge called for a motion to adjourn at 8:22.
Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Mr. Pastwik
Motion passed with unanimous consent.